

THE OCALA BANNER.

THE NEWSPAPER—"WHAT IS IT BUT A MAP OF BUSY LIFE: ITS FLUCTUATIONS AND VAST CONCERNS."—COWPER.

VOL. 43, NO. 40

OCALA, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, APRIL 3 1908.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

Local and Personal

Mr. C. E. Herrick of Crystal River, banker and cedar mill man, is in the city.

The candidates are now all getting busy. The sheriffs are particularly active, and it is said have very pretty and captivating speeches committed to memory.

Geiger will have a picnic Friday. All the candidates are expected to be on hand, and those who fail to deliver orations are expected to give the "glad band."

Miss Bertha Williams has returned to her home at Columbia, S. C., after spending the winter and spring in Ocala with her relatives, the Williams, Vogt and Whiteside families.

Senator Jeff Davis had a personal difficulty at his home town, Little Rock, Ark., on Tuesday. He was struck several blows in the face by District Attorney Tom Helm. The fuse grew out of a statement made on the stump by the senator.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cobb are very happy in the arrival of a small daughter at their home. The little miss was born Tuesday morning and weighs nine pounds. She is Mr. and Mrs. Cobb's only child, and their friends hope that she will always be a great joy to them.

AFTER THIRTY YEARS' experience millions of users of L. & M. PAINTS claim: First, it wears 10 to 15 years—Second, it only costs \$1.29 a gallon—Third, it's the best they have ever used—Fourth, sixteen thousand agents certify to this fact. Melver & MacKay, L. & M. Paint Agents. 1b

Mrs. S. J. Sistrunk of Montbrook, who has been ill for several months at her home and in this city, is now in a hospital in Jacksonville, where she has had a surgical operation performed, in the hopes of having her health restored. Her friends all over the county hope that the operation will prove successful and that she will soon be herself again.

Mr. Thomas H. Harris left yesterday afternoon for Jacksonville, and today will go to St. Augustine to be present at the Ponce de Leon celebration, and to attend the Elks' convention. He will spend a week with friends in Jacksonville, after which he will leave for Texas, in which state he expects to spend some time, and may locate there.

Mr. and Mrs. Adam C. White and little son of Citra were in Ocala yesterday on a dental and shopping expedition. Mr. White says that the groves and especially the truck farms are showing signs of damage done by the drouth. Besides owning fine orange groves and truck gardens at Citra, he owns fine tobacco lands in Gadsden county, which are becoming more and more valuable each year.

Mr. George A. Turner, a prosperous farmer living near Stokes' Ferry, on the Withlacoochee river, was in Ocala on Monday and presented us with a handsome Bermuda onion, a sample of the many he has grown. A few acres of these onions would be a small fortune for any man, and as they are easily grown it seems to us they are one of the coming crops of our state. Mr. Turner says he plants from the seeds and always has excellent success.

Mr. N. I. Gottlieb has been greatly honored by the Marion-Dunn lodge of Royal Arch Masons of this city, which was as great a matter of surprise as it was of appreciation. The lodge at its last session, through Mr. E. P. Thagard as spokesman, presented him with a Jewish shekel, symbolical of purity with all the word implies. Mr. Gottlieb has been a faithful and efficient member and the lodge took this method of showing their esteem for him. He was taken by surprise, but was equal to the occasion and returned his thanks in a very touching speech.

Mr. J. C. Howell of Anthony, accompanied by his little daughter, was in Ocala Monday and informed a reporter of this paper that he has now completed a telephone line connecting Anthony, Martin, Sparr, Citra, Eureka, Pine, the Meadows and Dexter with Ocala. He will continue this line to Palatka, where it will connect with the Bell Telephone system to all parts of the country. Mr. Howell is certainly to be commended for his spirit of enterprise, and we hope that this telephone line will prove a paying investment. We have christened it the Howell Long Distance Line.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Pike went up to St. Augustine Tuesday to attend the Ponce de Leon celebration.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cockran of Citra are the parents of a little son, who came to their home a few days ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Kelsey and little girl of Jacksonville are the guests of Mrs. Kelsey's cousin, Mrs. Jessie Haycraft.

Miss Ernestine Books, who attends the Southern College at Sutherland, came up Tuesday afternoon to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Brooks.

Mrs. J. C. Stine of Tyron, Pa., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Barnes. She was called by wire on account of the critical illness of her father, whose condition is but very little improved. Mrs. Stine is accompanied by her little son, who is a very handsome little fellow.

Mr. R. W. Ervin, candidate for superintendent of public instruction of this county, was in the city yesterday, interviewing the people in regard to his candidacy. Mr. Ervin is very much encouraged at the prospects all over the county. He says that he was not aware that he really had so many friends until he began to mingle with them.

Quite a number of our "country cousins" were in Ocala Tuesday. Among others we noted Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Sistrunk, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Morrison and two children of Candler, Maj. J. K. Priest, Mr. Warren Milligan, Mr. B. I. Freymuth and Mr. Jack McCully. These gentlemen all speak hopefully of the county's future, but are all at sea as to the successful candidates for governor and United States senator.

Miss Angelina Tompkins and Mr. Lee Osteen, both of this city, who have made several attempts to be married, and each time failed in their efforts, have again had their plans frustrated. They went up to Jacksonville Monday afternoon with the firm intention of being married, but the mother of the bride, Mrs. Libbie Tompkins, heard of the young people's plans, telegraphed the police in Jacksonville, who stopped the proceedings and sent the young couple back to Ocala Tuesday.

Capt. J. B. Martin of Oklawaha Station was an Ocala visitor yesterday, and says that the turpentine industry, while in no ways as active as in the halcyon days, is considerably better than in the immediate past and the turpentine farms present a scene of activity. The captain is very much in favor of the hard road to Lake Weir via Belleview, because he believes the greater number of people will be benefited by that route. This is a very patriotic stand to take, because almost all his interests lie along the other proposed route, but he says that there are very few persons living along it, and he favors the good old democratic doctrine of the "greatest good to the greatest numbers." Capt. Martin is enjoying excellent health, and is numbered among our very best citizens.

RHEUMATIC PAINS RELIEVED

Mr. Thomas Stenton, postmaster of Pontypool, Ont., writes: "For the past eight years I suffered from rheumatic pains, and during that time I used many different liniments and remedies for the cure of rheumatism. Last summer I procured a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm and got more relief from it than anything I have ever used, and cheerfully recommend this liniment to all sufferers from rheumatic pains." For sale by all druggists.

THE FLAG RAISING

Attracted by the notice in Wednesday morning's Banner, quite a number gathered at the court house to witness the welcome event, but as the band did not play, nor the Rifles appear in uniform, nor Mr. Watterson Tucker with his electrical appliances, it finally dawned upon the crowd that it was the first of April, and it was voted a first class joke.

A TWENTY YEAR SENTENCE

I have just completed a twenty year health sentence, imposed by Bucklen's Arnica Salve, which cured me of bleeding piles just twenty years ago," writes O. S. Woolever of Le Raysville, N. Y. Bucklen's Arnica Salve heals the worst sores, boils, burns, wounds and cuts in the shortest time. 25c. at Tydings & Co's. Drugstore.

Drury Lane Theater in London, first opened in 1663, has just been burned.

OCALA OPULENT AND OPTIMISTIC

Prosperous Back County—Diversity of Agricultural Pursuits and Mining Industries Contribute to Its Well Being—Two Prominent Characters in Newspaper Life—Habitat of the Nest Egg

In writing of places or persons well known what futile use it is to consume space in repetition of things already said.

Reams of literature have been placed within easy reach of the people concerning Ocala, and much that has been written has already passed into the tomb of inertness, having been laid up for reference and forgotten by reason of the careful manner in which it was placed away.

The glory of Rome cannot fade, and the spices of Arabia need no supplementary aroma; the gold of Ophir gathers no value from gruelled gossip, and the tranquility of the Haven of Rest is not perturbed or enhanced by adverbial advice of the saints; Helen gains no charms in the fountains of versification, and no performance of the pen could make the hideousness of Quasimodo more hideous.

What glint of glory could this rheumatic pen attach to the glistening parapets of Ocala if attempts were made to write it up, or what effect would follow an effort to write it down?

Everybody knows that Ocala was the scene of the Coming Out Convention—that political innovation incubated in the cerebellum of the editor of the Punta Gorda Herald and hatched out by the energy of the Ocala Banner—who has been irreverently and ineptly called the Nest-egg of the Florida press. He is no nest-egg. He is the responsible senior scratcher of a brood of less worthy scratchers, with a motherly feeling for all the queer and motley brood, and has made his nest so comfortable and secure that every chirper of them does him reverence and veneration in measures unstinted, though they have libeled him in their desire to give all that is coming to him. Some of them have estimated the age of Frank Harris of three score years and ten. The worthy spirit that inspired the libel was the same that inspired Eugene Field to write to Charles A. Dana on the latter's birthday, these lines:

"Why, bless ye, Mr. Dana, may ye live a thousand years,
To kind of brighten up things in this vale of human tears—
And may I live a thousand, too—a thousand, less a day,
For I should hate to live to say I'd seen you pass away."

Though Ocala is famed for many things, it is best known as the habitat and abiding place of Frank Harris, whom we found to be a well preserved youth of 61.

The scratchers who scratch in satisfying the demands of the grocery man need indulge no vain apprehensions that he will not get his due under the biblical apportionment. The editor of the Ocala Banner is yet in the enjoyment of his pristine vigor, and wears no condemning badge of accumulated years except a protective perplex of whiskers, which he keeps closely culled to the clinging form. There are no street cars in Ocala, and Editor Harris does not believe in trailers. He has method in his work, to be sure, which may by some be mistaken as a habit induced by age, but to the more reflective this is considered more correctly to be the operation of a well tutored mind. The most of us waste half our lives by failure to economize the hours. The prodigal who spends his forenoon with reckless regard for its value consumes the evening with ineffectual regret.

Ocala is 60 years old and Frank Harris has been forty years in the newspaper work. He has made the Banner the best and most widely read paper in the State outside the large cities. The mornings he spends in observant leisure and the afternoons and evenings are spent in the editorial rooms of the Banner. Systematic and thorough, he puts readable things in his paper, and this accounts for its success. Port Leavengood is the business man of the establishment, and he manages so well that the life of Editor Harris is one of unsullied freedom from financial cares, and the

Banner is on the high road to prosperity.

When Editor Harris resigns his honorary position as the Next-egg, his place will be filled by Editor Bittinger, of the Ocala Star. The Star is the afternoon paper of the town, and Bittinger has been there nearly thirty years—so he is not far in the rear of his well-known contemporary in point of service. Working in the heat and haste necessitated by the publication of an afternoon paper, Bittinger's life is less peaceful and ideal than that of his fraternal friend of the Banner. In editor of the Star is a busy man, and to push his business to keep the business from pushing him. He is secretary of the Ocala Board of Trade which has done more than the average Board of Trade for the business community of its being. He is also secretary of the Florida Press Association. Associated with Editor Bittinger as city editor and business manager of the Star is Mr. R. R. Carroll, who has been on the job twenty years, and naturally a large portion of the success of making the paper is due to him.

Both of the Ocala papers are on a good business basis and no better indicator of the general prosperity of Ocala and the surrounding country could be found than this—that a town of five thousand people supports two daily papers of such creditable character as the Banner and the Star.

This in itself is of significance sufficient to show that Ocala has a well knitted system of commercial sinews. It is so strong that there is no chance of retrogression. It is going forward in quick time with the guide right.

This is due to a variety of causes. Foremost, perhaps, is phosphate. The country would be rich with no other product than its phosphate, but it would also be rich if there was no phosphate. The farm products of Marion county alone are worth to it one million and a half a year, and the list of salable products comprises fifty or more fruits of farm and garden and orchard that the markets are always glad to get and pay well for. The naval stores output reaches nearly the mark of one hundred thousand barrels, at a crude approximate of about two millions. Marion is the foremost stock and cattle raising county in the state, with several large stock farms and dairies, stocked with the best breeds of beef and milk cows. There are vast beds of lime, and a company for the mining of crude oil has been formed, and investigations that have been carefully pursued for several years by experts show conclusively that the oil is of good quality and exists in great quantities, so that the near future will bring forth a new industry; one which has made millionaires of many in Texas and other states, Texas particularly, for it is thought that the Florida oil comes from a continuation of the Beaumont strata. There seems to be nothing that Marion county soil will not produce, practically little that it has not produced which is known to be producible in this section.

There is no county in Florida which has all the people it needs. The population could be increased a hundred times and there would be room left.

Thousands and thousands of acres of such good hammock land as may now be had in Marion county are lying fallow awaiting the inspiring touch of industry. There is but one future for the county. Let no frumpish pessimist tell you that the country is going to destruction. Nobody believes this, and very few will assert that this condition confronts us; but their mewlings and mouthings give the same effect that a heart depressant gives the healthy body.

Marion stands sixth on the list of counties in the state as to area, so there is land to spare, and the price is not great. It is lower of value now than it will ever be again, so this is the opportune time for the homeseeker and the investor.

Marion has the best roads in the state. Its good roads have made it famous, and individuals and companies have traveled miles to inspect

them and find the means and mode of building them.

The combined assessed valuation of city and county is four millions, and with continued development this figure will be increased from year to year.

Ocala, the town, is the product of a wide-awake business community, spurred to action by a good back country.

The streets are well paved, and have the usual advantages of a city of such size. The court house is a handsome building, about which the town is built on four sides, with this structure as an imposing center setting. The court house cost \$65,000. Just now preparations are being made for the construction of a postoffice building, in which the federal offices will be located, and where the federal court will hold its sittings. This building will occupy an entire block, and is to cost \$80,000. It will be of brick, with stone trimmings.

Ocala is the largest town, commercially considered, between Jacksonville and Tampa, and the growing years must add to its importance and its virtues. It has reached that interesting stage of growth where it is impossible to stand still. There must be growth constant and changing. The demands of trade make it so, and the restlessness of a people make it imperative.—Tallahassee Sun.

DEATH WAS ON HIS HEELS

Jesse P. Morris of Skippers, Va., had a close call in the spring of 1906. He says: "An attack of pneumonia left me so weak and with such a fearful cough that my friends declared consumption had me, and death was on my heels. Then I was persuaded to try Dr. King's New Discovery. It helped me immediately, and after taking two and a half bottles, I was a well man again. I found out that New Discovery was the best remedy for coughs and lung disease in all the world." Sold under guarantee at Tydings & Co's. Drugstore. 50 and \$1. Trial bottle free.

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